

In the Hearts of his Countrymen,
He Lived,
The Ornament of the Eighteenth Century;
He Died,
Lamented by a Mourning World.●

HONORING GWENDOLYN BROOKS

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, tomorrow evening, Howard University will be honoring and celebrating one of our Nation's most treasured poets, Gwendolyn Brooks. There, they will highlight her lifetime of accomplishment: Many awards, over 70 honorary degrees, and her status both as the first black Pulitzer Prize winner and Poet Laureate of Illinois. I would like to take a moment to add a few words of my own to the many that will be saluting her tomorrow.

Like myself, Miss Brooks grew up on the south side of Chicago and attended Chicago public schools. Her parents loved literature and nurtured her early talent. She published her first poem when she was 11, and the world of poetry was forever changed. Her work gave voice to an entire class of people who had not yet been heard, and who had so much to say.

Her poetry has a soul of its own, sometimes whimsical, sometimes mournful, but always full of truth, and beauty. She writes of love and life and loss and liberty and lunacy and laceration. Her work is often provocative, and always inspirational. One of her most clever poems challenges its readers, shaking them out of complacency, preventing them from passively enjoying her art:

A poem doesn't do everything for you.
You are supposed to go on with your thinking.

You are supposed to enrich the other person's poem with your extensions,
your uniquely personal understandings,
thus making the poem serve you.

However, Gwendolyn Brooks doesn't merely challenge readers, she challenges writers. For more than half a century, she has dedicated herself to nurturing the talent of young writers through her teaching. She sponsors annual poetry contests, using her own money for cash prizes. She is as generous with her time as her money, dispensing advice and answering questions posed by aspiring writers.

Gwendolyn Brooks is not only one of America's greatest poets and a living legend, but an inspiration to many, myself included. One of the highlights of the day I was sworn in as a Senator 4 years ago was her reading of *Aurora* to me. Her words from that day live on in me as they do in anyone who has ever heard her speak.●

FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY DONATION ACT

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to speak about S. 307, the Federal Surplus Property Donations Act introduced earlier in the week by Senators LUGAR, HARKIN, LEAHY, and myself.

This legislation will enable food banks and other charities, which primarily serve low-income persons, to receive surplus Federal property such as computers, office furniture, copiers, warehouse equipment, and trucks. Items like these are often not available because of their expense. Such equipment can contribute to efficient and effective food bank operations.

I want to thank Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, and other major charities which serve needy families and children every day for their support of this legislation and their commitment in responding to hunger in our communities.

Mr. President, Second Harvest and Habitat for Humanity work with food banks serving all 50 States and Puerto Rico. In my home State of Kentucky, this legislation will assist Dare to Care Food Bank in Louisville, God's Pantry Food Bank in Lexington, and Kentucky Food Bank in Elizabethtown in accessing Federal surplus property.

This is a modest but important bill. It can make a real difference in the lives of those who are served by these valuable programs.

I urge my colleagues to support both this legislation and the food banks across the country that serve needy families and children.●

GAO'S REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, we are now at the height of a contentious debate on whether or not Social Security payments will be made in the 21st century if we pass the balanced budget amendment. The question is moot.

According to a report released yesterday by the General Accounting Office [GAO], come January 1, 2000, the "Year 2000 Computer Problem" will render all Social Security funds impounded. On the first day of the new millennium thousands of computer systems at the Social Security Administration as well as all the other Federal Agencies—Defense included—could malfunction.

It is February 13, 1997; we have 1,051 days remaining until January 1, 2000. Not only does the Year 2000 Computer Problem render our balanced budget debate moot, but its extent and impact will have consequences unseen in history. I have introduced a bill, S. 22, that would set up a commission to address the problem. This issue should be the No. 1 priority of the Governmental Affairs Committee, and of the 105th Congress.

If this matter lingers unaddressed, I can only imagine what else besides Social Security will fail in our computer-dependent society.●

TRIBUTE TO UTAH'S MOTHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sybil Shumway Stewart, Utah's 1996 Mother of the

Year. I want to recognize her for the decades of service to her community, her church, and her family. We have been proud to have her represent our State this past year.

Sybil Shumway was born in Trenton, UT, on April 1, 1920, the youngest of four daughters, raised under the most humble of circumstances during the Great Depression. Sybil's father was a schoolteacher who taught in Cache County schools and was respected throughout the community. From the earliest age, her parents instilled in her the fundamental values of hard work, honesty and integrity, sacrifice and service.

As a student in junior high school, Sybil recalls her civics teacher detailing the rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany and subsequently learned to cherish and value the freedoms many of us often take for granted. She committed herself at that time to serving her community and country. She also recognized the importance that she teach her own children to cherish these same values.

Sybil graduated from Logan High School and Utah State University in 1942. Her desire to give something back to her community led her to pursue an occupation as a schoolteacher. While she only taught for a short while, she sees many of her students today. Her students never fail to express their appreciation for the skills they learned in her home economics class.

On Valentine's Day 1943, Sybil Shumway received an engagement ring in the mail from a young Army Air Corps lieutenant named Boyd Stewart, whom she had dated in college. They were married on May 21, 1943, while Boyd was home on weekend leave. They embarked on their life together and left that night for Randolph Field in Texas where Boyd was stationed as a flight instructor. After 20-plus years of Air Force duty and more than 30 years of running two farms, their marriage is still going strong almost 54 years later.

Sybil and Boyd raised 10 children; 6 boys and 4 girls. They taught their children the value of hard work and service to their fellow men. They instilled in each of them a love of God, country, community, and family. Sybil and Boyd's children went on to become schoolteachers, government administrators, successful business owners, elected officials, community activists, farmers, Scout leaders, a published author, and a world record holder. Five of their six sons served in our Nation's Armed Forces. Four of those sons served as missionaries for their church. Most important, following the example of their mother, those 10 children are now devoted parents to 41 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Indeed, Sybil's legacy and example will live on for generations to come.

In our world today, success is unfortunately often measured by great wealth, an expensive education, and the recognition and honors of men. Sybil Stewart has proven that the